

# Student Handbook

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## The West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy



June 28 - July 18, 2015

“The Sustainable Life”

West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts

## FOREWORD

Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and the Department of Education and the Arts proudly present the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. This unique program celebrates the achievement and potential of 200 of the state's top-achieving rising seniors. The opportunity to live on a college campus for three weeks while taking advantage of academic and intellectual challenges makes GHA an unforgettable experience.

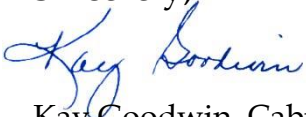
Governor's Schools are truly a community effort. Funded by the legislature as requested in the governor's budget, all of the Governor's Schools of West Virginia are administered by the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts. The West Virginia Department of Education also provides support for GHA.

The information in this handbook provides important information; therefore, students and their families are encouraged to read and discuss it. It is imperative that each understands the importance and responsibility of attending a governor's school. If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Governor's Schools Sherry Keffer by email at [Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov](mailto:Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov)

I congratulate you on your academic achievement, your obvious commitment to learning, and for having the wisdom to know that GHA is the place where you should spend three wonderful weeks this summer. I am also happy to commend your parents for the support they have given you as you strive for excellence.

You make West Virginia proud.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay Goodwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" being more prominent.

Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary Education and the Arts

## Welcome to the Governor's Academy 2015

The information in this handbook should answer many of the questions you have about GHA. Please read it carefully. If you do not find the answers you need, contact Dr. J. Robert Baker, dean of GHA at Fairmont State University; Dr. John O'Connor, assistant dean; or Mrs. Sherry Keffer, director of Governor's Schools.

Your attendance at the Governor's Honors Academy is a challenging opportunity for you to meet and interact with other students and adults in an enriched, relaxed academic environment where you may explore studies of particular interest to you. You will be living and learning on the campus of Fairmont State University as you represent your school and county in this unique experience.

Your potential for learning will be challenged and your curiosity will be piqued as you discover new horizons while broadening your knowledge base. Moreover, you will meet other talented young West Virginians and develop friendships that may last throughout your lifetime.

Acceptance of this opportunity carries with it an agreement to behave with integrity and respect for others. You are to abide by all rules and regulations included in this brochure. These guidelines are necessary in order for you to have the best possible learning experience.

If you decide not to accept your invitation, you may not use your original acceptance in any application or news release. Only students who complete the Academy are known as GHA Scholars.

We wish you a successful and enjoyable experience at the Governor's Honors Academy at Fairmont State University. See you June 28!



## Governor's Schools of W.Va. Advisory Council 2015

The Governor's Schools Advisory Council advises West Virginia's Secretary of Education and Arts regarding site selections, program offerings and procedures for student and faculty selection. The advisory council meets approximately two to three times a year, usually in Charleston. Each year, students are selected by their governor's school peers to be student representatives on the West Virginia Governor's Schools Advisory Council. Student representatives are chosen the third week of the session. Those chosen should express a commitment to the governor's schools, possess public speaking ability and the leadership skills needed to work with the adults on the advisory council, be willing to attend the scheduled council meetings, and have their parents' support to do so.

### **Membership**

Mr. Rob Aliff  
Dr. J. Robert Baker  
Mrs. Carrie Bledsoe  
Dr. Christina Chambers  
Dr. Sean Collins  
Ms. Saralyn Dague  
Mr. Bill Gibson  
Mrs. Gretchen Gibson  
Mrs. Pam Goots  
Secretary of Education and the Arts Kay Goodwin  
Mrs. Katie Hayes  
Ms. Sue Ann Heatherly  
Ms. Kitty McCarthy  
Mrs. Vicky Mohnacky  
Dr. John O'Connor  
Mr. Mark Payne  
Mr. James Snyder  
Mr. John Waltz  
Mrs. Martha Woodward

### **Student Representatives**

Bonnie Walton, GHA  
Derek Zelkowski, GHA  
Isabella Neer, GSA  
Mataio Swain, GSA

### **Faculty Representatives**

John Shirley, GHA

**Ex-Officio**--Sherry Keffer, director of Governor's Schools

# The Sustainable Life

The theme for the 2014 Governor's Honors Academy is "The Sustainable Life". Faculty and students will explore together the constituents of a sustainable life as it relates to their discrete fields of study. Because we all must make a life, you and your teachers will examine how your chosen subject areas can contribute to a life that is not only livable but also meaningful and worthwhile.

- In science and math courses the questions may focus on the practical results of work by scientists and mathematicians.
- In humanities courses you may examine the contributions of humanistic endeavors to a fully human and fully authentic life.
- Creative courses may concentrate on artistic activity as the creation, shaping, and sharing of meaning.
- Our weekend field trip to Washington, D.C. will be oriented around the theme as well.

The theme may immediately call to mind environmental sustainability, that is, those human activities which minimize damage to the natural environment and destruction of the planet's balance. More broadly construed, the theme raises questions, such as, What makes human life endurable; What conditions, systems, and institutions in our society are acceptable and which should be reformed; and What sorts of actions, habits, attitudes, and even thoughts serve the common good. Ultimately, the theme asks students, faculty, and staff to consider together the moral consequences of human thought and deeds by discussing what in our lives should be upheld and defended as true or virtuous or precious.

## Policies and Procedures

### Residency Policy

Students are expected to remain on campus. Parents, family, and friends are **not** to visit. Emergency leave requests, stating the nature of the emergency, must be sent to the dean. Students who are excused for emergency leave must inform their Resident Assistant of the expected times for leaving and returning. **There is a 24-hour limit on emergency leave.**

- There is one exception to the 24-hour leave policy. Through an agreement with the West Virginia Department of Education, career/technical students who are representing their school, county or state in regional or national competition, can be granted extra leave time. Arrangements of this nature must be made in advance with Mrs. Keffer and Dean Baker.
- Students may **never** leave campus alone and without informing the appropriate GHA staff.

## Governor's Honors Academy 2015

- Students will be living on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> floors of Bryant Place. Students are **not** allowed in the residential areas of any other floor in Bryant Place. These floors are reserved for GHA faculty as well as other FSU summer programs.

### Visitation Policy

- Students may not entertain non-GHA visitors, including family.
- Students are **not** permitted to visit other groups or dormitories while on the FSU campus.
- There is to be no physical contact between parents and students during GHA.
- Students may visit with members of the opposite sex **only** in the dormitory lounge or common areas, not in student rooms.

### Motor Vehicles

- Students may neither ride in nor operate a motor vehicle unless driven by appropriate GHA staff.

### Cell Phones, Computers, and Personal Electronics

- Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is limited to trips and free time **only**, unless otherwise approved or instructed by GHA staff.

### Attendance and Participation

- Students are required to attend and actively participate in all scheduled classes/ events.
- If it is necessary to miss a class, the student must notify the instructor in advance and the absence must be approved by appropriate GHA staff ahead of time.
- The same policy applies to event absences.

### Field Trips and Leaving Campus

- Students are required to follow established travel schedules, dormitory curfews, and established town ordinances regarding curfews for minors.
- When off-campus, students **must** stay in an RA- or faculty-chaperoned group at all times.
- Students may **not** leave Bryant Place without permission, and not at all after dark.
- Students **must** travel in groups of three (**3**) or more on campus if no RA or staff member is present.
- Students wishing to attend religious services must follow policy established for such, outlined in the Pre-Arrival packet.

### Drug Policy

- Tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and other chemical substances (with the exception of prescription or OTC drugs that GHA staff have been made aware of) are **prohibited**.

### Other Policies

- GHA ID must be worn at all times.
- If the fire alarm sounds, everyone is to exit the building and assemble at designated safe areas for roll call.

## Governor's Honors Academy 2015

- Dress clothes are to be worn at certain specified events including but not limited to the Outstanding Educator and the final Banquet.
- For your own safety, it is required that you wear shoes at all times when you are outside the residence hall
- GHA t-shirts are to be worn as instructed on trips including but not limited to Washington, D.C.
- Offensive writing or images on clothing is prohibited.
- Appropriate shoes and shirts are required in classrooms, activities, field trips, and the dining hall.
- RAs must accompany students to all classes on the first day of the Academy.

### Bryant Place

- **Keep it clean. Bryant Place is the newest and one of the best dorms on campus and we intend to keep it that way. Please be respectful of each other, the building, GHA staff, and especially University Housekeeping.**
- When you arrive at GHA, the residence hall rooms will be clean, and you are to leave them in the same condition when checking out. A room inspection form will be completed upon move-in with the assigned Resident Advisor, and another inspection form will be completed prior to move-out. Your parent or designee is to be present at both sign-in and sign-out.
- You and your roommate will be responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of your room as well as any activity in the room. You and your parents will be financially responsible for any damages to the room.
- Garbage is to be taken out by the residents to the designated location beside Bryant Place.
- Do not hang any items out of or in the windows, on sprinklers, or on fire alarms. This is a fire safety regulation.
- FSU residence halls are smoke-free facilities. Smoking, of course, is prohibited for students at all times.
- Your room should be locked at all times when you or your roommate is gone. Missing items should be reported to the Resident Director immediately.
- Stairwells are to walk from one floor to the next, not a place to hang out. Please keep them clean.
- Students are to be in their rooms by **10 p.m.** each night and Lights Out is at **11 p.m.**, unless otherwise instructed by GHA faculty and staff. This means that if RAs walk the halls, they should neither be able to hear noise from your room nor see the lights on. The bathroom light is okay to leave on.

\*\*\*If you have any questions or concerns about these policies, feel free to ask your RA or any other member of the GHA 2014 staff. These policies are in place to provide you with a safe, fun, and enriching experience.



## Items to Bring

### Clothing

A variety of tops of different weights	Shorts	Jeans
Slacks	Sleepwear	Rain gear
Jacket	Umbrella	Swimsuit
Tennis Shoes	Shower/swim shoes	

Two dress outfits

Males: Dress shirt & tie, coat optional

Females: Dresses\* or dress slacks

Dress shoes

\*Dresses should be suitable for church – not evening wear.

### Items You Will Need

Sheets and mattress cover for a Twin Extra-Long bed

Pillows/pillowcases

Trash can

Laundry basket

Blankets

Garbage bags

Detergent/Dryer sheets

Washcloths

Towels

Hangers

Toiletries-- toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, cosmetics

### Items You May Bring

Bedside lamp	Radio/mp3 player/iPod	Games
Cell Phone	Musical Instrument	Fan
Hair dryer	Shower caddy basket	
Camera	Cologne/perfume	
Sports equipment	Laptop/tablet	

### Items You May NOT Bring

TV	Video games consoles/equipment	
DVD/BlueRay players	Hot plate/hot pot	Toaster
Toaster oven	Popcorn popper	Air conditioner
Coffee maker	Refrigerator	Fry Daddy
Large fitness equipment	Microwave	Grill

## Disciplinary Action

Certain behavior is incompatible with the philosophy of GHA. As representatives of your schools, communities, counties, and the state of West Virginia, you are expected to be exemplary citizens. All staff members are responsible for disciplinary action in response to misbehavior. In other words, every adult is the "boss."

There are three levels of discipline, determined by the nature, frequency, or severity of the infraction;

1. Verbal reprimand by staff with written notice to the Dean



2. Written warning by the Dean to be sent to your parent/guardian and your high school counselor.
3. Dismissal from GHA

The Dean, in consultation with the appropriate faculty, staff, and the State Director, will make final decisions regarding dismissal from GHA.

Should a student be dismissed, the Dean will immediately contact the student's parents or guardians. A dismissed student will be required to be picked up by a parent/guardian within 12 hours of dismissal. While waiting to be picked up, the student will pack personal belongings under staff supervision and be separated from other Academy members. A letter stating the reason for dismissal will be sent to the parent/guardian, high school principal and county superintendent of schools.

*Be advised that Fairmont State University and the West Virginia Governor's Honors Academy will cooperate with all University, local, and state authorities with regard to investigations or illegal activities.*

### **Causes for Disciplinary Action**

Students who leave campus without authorization, leave the room after "room check" during off-campus travel, engage in activities threatening the safety of themselves or others including leaving assigned groups when off campus, or who violate the tobacco, alcohol and controlled substance abuse rule will be dismissed immediately. There will be no second chances.

Other reasons for dismissal include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Absence from campus without permission
- Unexcused absence
- Disobeying visitation policies
- Use or possession of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances at any time
- Unauthorized use of a vehicle
- Unauthorized riding in a vehicle with another person
- Tampering with fire alarms or security systems
- Harassment
- Failure to follow faculty, staff, or campus security's directions
- Actions compromising your safety or the safety of others
- Behavior unbecoming of a member of GHA

## **Student Representative Selection**

Each year, two students are elected by their GHA peers to be student representatives on the WV Governor's Schools Advisory Council. Those chosen should express a commitment to the Governor's Schools, possess public speaking ability and the leadership skills needed to work with the adults on the advisory council, and be willing and able to attend the scheduled council meetings.

The meetings are held on school days, so the elected representatives will miss at least three instructional days. Students who feel uncomfortable with school absence due to a heavy academic schedule should not run for the office. This also requires a commitment on the parts of the parents, since they must accompany students staying overnight, so students must discuss running for this office with their parents

and sign the appropriate form in the forms packet. The election is held in the last week of GHA. Students who were GSA representatives from 2014 are **not** eligible to run as GHA rep.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. If I am selected for another honor during the summer, may I come to GHA for part of the time and then leave a few days early to be in another program? What if there's a family wedding?**

A. No. The commitment to GHA is for the full 21 days, and you will be excused only for a verified emergency. Everyone is expected to attend the entire time with no exceptions for weddings or other planned family events.

**2. Will there be time to check e-mail?**

A. Yes. There are times during the day when students may go to a number of places to check e-mail or to do computer research. Ethernet connections will also be provided for each student in Bryant Place, which also features wireless connection. In addition, the campus is wireless, so you can use your personal devices to check for messages.

**3. Can my parents or friends visit during GHA?**

A. No. GHA is designed so that you can be totally focused on the activities planned for you. Parents, other family members, and friends are not permitted to visit. Those from the Fairmont area need to pay special attention to this.

**4. Will I get the classes I request?**

A. Possibly. The classes are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. We do attempt to see that students are enrolled in their first or second choice in either the broad-based or intensive class. Although you may not get your top choice, there are no bad choices.

**5. Will attending GHA enhance my scholarship opportunities?**

A. *Some* colleges and universities award financial aid over and above other scholarships for students who complete GHA. You will need to check with the respective institution financial aid office to see if they offer such a scholarship. Scholarships are not financed by the Governor's Schools; neither are they guaranteed.

**6. Will I receive college credit for the GHA classes?**

A. No. The classes at GHA are for your enjoyment and intellectual and academic enrichment. Although you will work hard in the classes, they are not designed to meet the requirements of a college-credit course.

**7. Will I really enjoy living with all these rules?**

A. Of course you will. Students who attend GHA say that they are the best experiences of their high school career. You will not be "giving up" your summer; instead, you will be gaining tools and making memories for a lifetime.

## Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

Dean J. Robert Baker  
Assistant Dean John O'Connor, Ph.D.  
Fairmont State University  
1201 Locust Avenue  
Fairmont, WV

[GHA@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:GHA@fairmontstate.edu) or [GovernorsHonorAcademy@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:GovernorsHonorAcademy@fairmontstate.edu)

Before June 15: (304) 367-4260

After June 15 (304) 368-7231

Sherry Keffer  
Director of Governor's Schools  
Department of Education and the Arts  
Building 5, Room 205  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Email: [Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov](mailto:Sherry.L.Keffer@wv.gov)

Before June 15: Office Phone: (304) 558-2440

After June 15: Personal Cell: (304) 640-0988

## Things to Remember!!

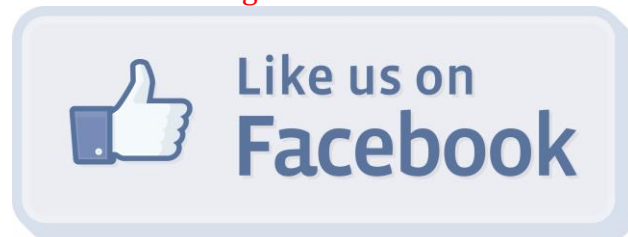
**Mail paper forms to address provided on the form.**

**Move In:** Sunday, June 28, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Opening Ceremony for Students and Parents:** 1 p.m., gymnasium, Falcon Center

**Move Out:** Saturday, July 18, end of day. More information about move out day and the closing ceremonies will be provided by GHA through FSU.

Like us on Facebook West Virginia Governors Honors Academy Alumni





# FAIRMONT STATE UNIVERSITY PIERPONT COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- 
1. One Room Schoolhouse Museum
  2. Hardway Hall (HB)
  3. Parking Garage
  4. Bryant Place
  5. Newman Center
  6. Jaynes Hall (JH)
  7. Morrow Hall
  8. Pritchard Hall
  9. Pence Hall
  10. Shaw House
  11. Feaster Center (FC)
  12. Duval-Rosier Field
  13. Physical Plant Building
  14. Tennis Courts
  15. Practice Field
  16. College Park Apartments
  17. Frank & Jane Gabor West Virginia Folklife Center
  18. Hunt Haught Hall (HH)
  19. Ruth Ann Musick Library (LI)
  20. Engineering Technology Building (ET)
  21. Wallman Hall (WH)
  22. Turkey Center (TC)
  23. Education Building (ED)
  24. Colabank Hall (CH)
  25. Falcon Center (FAL)
  26. Erickson Alumni Center
  27. Wesley Foundation
  28. Locust Avenue